October 23, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution Email

FROM: Christine Caruso Magee
                                       Configuration Manager, NCEP Central Operations

SUBJECT: Scheduled Operational Changes and Upgrades for
                                       CPC, OPC, and WPC

The following accelerated items were implemented this past week:

RFC #467 – For the daily teleconnection driver scripts, changed the path and filenames that access GFS forecast data on the CPC Compute Farm. Made corresponding changes in global environment variables in '.profile_user". Implemented on October 20 at 1400Z. (CPC)

RFC #468 – For the blocking driver scripts, changed the path and filenames that access GFS forecast data on the CPC Compute Farm. Made corresponding changes in global environment variables in '.profile_user". Implemented on October 20 at 1600Z. (CPC)

The following will be implemented the week of October 26, 2015:

RFC #476 - Comment out the 'get_time_zone.csh' entry from 'crontab_compute_farm.dat' and 'crontab.utc'. Move 'get_time_zone.csh' to the "old" subdirectory. This script is no longer needed due to an improved method to determine the local timezone. To be implemented on October 26 at 1200Z. (OPC)

RFC #477 - The webpage "Post Harvest Forecasts of Vibrio parahaemolyticus in Oysters" has been updated to fix a flickering when animating images. It uses a newer version of the open source JSani HTML5 code. The changes were scanned and passed by the web security team. Test page at http://opcwebdev.ncep.noaa.gov/restricted/Vibrio/Chesapeake/TimeTemp/Vpara TimeTemp_jsani.php?region=FullBay. To be implemented on October 26 at 1200Z. (OPC)

RFC #478 - Move the decoding of GFE ISC (intersite coordination) grids from the testvm on the Compute Farm to the operational VM. Add display of ISC grids to NMAP for QPF/Winter weather Desks. To be implemented on October 26 at 1200Z. (WPC)

RFC #479 - Modify script "sendww" to do DBnet-alert probabilistic winter weather shapefiles to support National Water Center operations. To be implemented on October 26 at 1200Z. (WPC)

RFC #480 – Turn on and modify Compute Farm Winter Weather scripts. The first set of scripts call RAP13 data and then processes ptype and frozen precip estimation used to verify Day 4-7 WPC snow/ice outlooks. The second set of scripts accesses NOHRSC (National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center) snow/ice data which is used for WWE (Winter Weather Experiment) verification. Modification to the scripts entails changing threshold values and increasing the temporal resolution of the data pull. To be implemented on October 26 at 1600Z. (WPC)

RFC #481 – Add versioning and additional documentation to several Long Range Forecast subprocesses. To be implemented on October 30 at 1200Z. (CPC)

The following CPC OPC WPC RFC(s) are in progress:

RFC #384 – The salinity fields in NOS's CBOFS model have drifted this summer by about 4 PSU, negatively impacting the Ecological Forecasts which use the CBOFS for Vibrio Vulnificus and Sea Nettle forecasts. A bias correction has been developed by the Ecological Forecast Pathogens group. This correction will be applied every 2 weeks through early fall or until the CBOFS model has been corrected. The Vibrio and Sea Nettles web pages will be restarted each time after the salinity correction has been implemented. Implementation began on July 22 at 2100Z and should be completed by October 27. (OPC)

RFC #440 – Initial implementation of GEMPAK-based NCEP model (GFS, GEFS, and GDAS) products for the international domains generated with collaboration of NCO. NCO makes the tar files available on the Compute Farm and CPC needs to untar them and transfer them to the web server. CPC will ensure the web page is labeled 'experimental' until NCO provides 24/7 support. Implementation began on September 21 at 0430Z; was to be completed by September 24; problems encountered during implementation are pushing the completion date back to the week of October 19. (CPC)

The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of October 26, 2015 may affect CPC, OPC, and/or WPC:

RFC #1417 – wave_multi_2 v3.0.9 - Increase the number of nodes used by the Wave Multi 2 (Hurricane Wave) forecast job from 40 nodes to 48 nodes in order

to prevent job failures caused by a lack of memory on one of the model's MPI tasks. To be implemented on October 27 at 1230Z.

The following NCO RFC(s) are in progress and may affect the local Centers:

None

The following NCO RFC(s), which may affect the local Centers, was approved with an implementation date TBD:

RFC #1357 – RTOFS global v1.1.0 – Major upgrade of the Global RTOFS model. See the TIN at: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-36global-rtofsaaa.htm for details. This was advertised as having an October 6 implementation date but this implementation is being postponed due to a delay in the Navy's HYCOM model upgrade. Once the HYCOM upgrade is implemented, the Global RTOFS will be scheduled for implementation. Notification will be given in advance so users may prepare for any changes which may affect them. This upgrade of the Global RTOFS was approved by the NCEP Director.

The following NCO RFC(s), which may affect the local Centers, are on hold:

RFC #1320 – Himawari v1.2 – Himawari was to be declared operational on IDP effective September 30 at 1200Z. This was approved at the Sep. 24 NCO CCB but was not approved by the NCEP Director at the Sep. 28 briefing, so it is on hold until a future date.

RFC #1370 – GEFS v11.0.3 – Major GEFS upgrade. See the TIN at: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-43gefsaab.htm for specifics. This was scheduled for an October 14 implementation and was conditionally approved at the October 8 NCO CCB, but it was not approved by the NCEP Director at the October 9 briefing, so it is on hold until a future date.

Please note that security-related RFCs are never listed in the RFC memo.

---- OPERATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ----

1.   The CPC/OPC/WPC Configuration Management documents are available at https://sites.google.com/a/noaa.gov/nws-ncep-nco-cm/.

Please review these documents if you have questions prior to submitting changes for CPC/OPC/WPC configurable items.